

J.C. Watts, Jr.
Chairman
4th District, Oklahoma

*House Meets at 12:30 p.m. for Morning Hour and
2:00 p.m. for Legislative Business
(No Votes Before 6:00 p.m.)*

Anticipated Floor Action:

**H.R. 1141—FY 1999 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act
(Conference Report)**



H.R. 1141—FY 1999 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act (Conference Report)

Floor Situation: The House will consider the conference report to H.R. 1141 as its only order of business today. Conference reports are privileged and may be considered any time three days after they are filed; they are debatable for one hour and may not be amended. Yesterday, the Rules Committee granted a rule waiving all points of order against the conference report and its consideration.

Summary: The conference report to H.R. 1141 appropriates \$12 billion to pay for U.S. participation in *Operation Allied Force* in Yugoslavia and for military operations in Southwest Asia, \$1 billion less than the House-passed level and \$6 billion more than the president's request. This amount includes funding to provide humanitarian aid, replenish depleted stocks of munitions and spare parts stores, increase military pay and retirement benefits, strengthen security at U.S. diplomatic missions, and fund needed military construction projects. Specifically, the measure appropriates:

- * \$2.35 billion for spare parts, depot maintenance, recruitment, readiness, and base operations to cover service shortfalls identified by the military chiefs before the Kosovo operation commenced, \$732 million less than the House-passed version;
- * \$1.8 billion for FY 2000 increases in military pay and retirement, subject to congressional authorization and an emergency designation by the president;
- * \$1.1 billion, almost double the president's request and the House-passed level, for humanitarian aid to cope with the burgeoning refugee crisis in the Balkans; and

- * \$475 million for various military construction projects, \$596 million less than the House-passed level.

Conferees removed \$240 million for the NATO Security Investment Program that was included in the House-passed version. The measure provides new Kosovo-related funding not included in the original House version, such as (1) \$100 million to resettle refugees temporarily in the U.S.; (2) \$149 million to provide food assistance to refugees; and (3) \$200 million for Coast Guard readiness.

The conference report to H.R. 1141 also appropriates approximately \$2.9 billion in emergency disaster relief to victims of Hurricanes Mitch and Georges in Central America and tornado victims in the Midwest as well as other emergency spending. Specifically, the measure allocates (1) \$900 million for the Federal Emergency Management Agency; (2) approximately \$1 billion in emergency disaster relief to victims of Hurricanes Mitch and Georges in Central America; (3) \$100 million in economic and military aid to Jordan; and (4) \$545.9 million to support U.S. farmers. In addition, the measure rescinds approximately \$2 billion, including \$1.25 billion in excess balances within the Food Stamp program, \$350 million from unspent balances within the Section 8 housing program, and \$230 million of community development block grant unobligated balances.

Finally, the measure:

- * lifts the June 15th fence on all FY 1999 funding for Commerce-State-Justice appropriations. Funding now may be allocated for the remainder of the fiscal year. In addition, the measure allocates \$45 million in unanticipated costs associated with FY 1999 census funding;
- * requires the president to seek an equitable reimbursement from NATO members and other appropriate organizations and nations for the costs incurred by the U.S. in connection with *Operation Allied Force*;
- * prohibits any funds in the conference report from being used to implement a long-term, regional program of development or reconstruction in Southeastern Europe;
- * extends the authorization of the Federal Aviation Administration's aviation improvement program (AIP) through August 6, 1999 (the authorization for the AIP is set to expire on May 31); and
- * prohibits the federal government from recouping any Medicaid funds recovered by the states in the \$206 billion tobacco settlement.

The House passed H.R. 1141 (*H.Rept. 106-64*, the FY 1999 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act) by a vote of 221-213 on March 24, 1999. The Senate approved its version of the measure (S. 544) by unanimous consent on the same day. The House passed H.R. 1664 (*H.Rept 106-125*, the Kosovo Supplemental Appropriations Act) by a vote of 311-105 on May 6, 1999. The Senate did not pass a supplemental appropriations measure for Kosovo.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVIII, #14, May 14, 1999.

